

Oil Spill Act

Chapter 251, Acts of 2004

*An Act Relative to Oil Spill Prevention
and Response in Buzzards Bay and
Other Harbors and Bays of the
Commonwealth*



Scope/Implications

Twofold:

- Marine-Focus: Regulates tankers & barges (oil and haz mat)
- All 21E releases/sites: penalties and spill prevention



Implementation

Many requirements "Immediately Effective" (August 4, 2004)

Some requirements contingent upon actions by other agencies

Some provisions may need/benefit from regulations



Immediately Effective Vessel Requirement

\$ 1 Billion Financial Assurance for vessels carrying > 6000 barrels oil/haz mats

Alcohol and Drug Testing

Watch/crew requirements for Buzzards Bay

Recommended Routes

Piloting Requirements



Effective September 1, 2004

Uniform Oil Response & Prevention Fee:

- 2 cents/barrel of petroleum products
- For shipments received by Marine Terminals in Mass from out of state shipments
- *Money goes to Oil Spill Prevention and Response Trust Fund*



Upcoming Requirements

Tug Escorts (for tank barges)

By January 1, 2005



Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) System

By January 1, 2006



Oil Spill Prevention and Response Trust Fund

- Capped at \$10 million
- Administered by DEP Commissioner
- Purposes:
 - remediating oil spills
 - interest-free emergency loans
 - training & support for state/city responders
 - vessel navigational safety improvements



Implications of Act: All 21E releases/sites

- \$25K civil administrative penalty for Chapter 21E violations.
- \$25K for knowingly making false or misleading written statements to DEP
- Allows DEP to set provisions to prevent releases of oil



For More Information:

www.mass.gov/dep/bwsc/spillact.htm

Or just Google "Mass Oil Spill Act"

